In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for ordering multimedia content, comprising the steps of:

segmenting the multimedia content to extract objects;

extracting and associating features of the objects to produce content entities, wherein the content entities are recursive data structures comprising features, relations, directed acyclic graphs and containment sets;

coding the content entities to produce directed acyclic graphs of the content entities, each directed acyclic graph representing a particular interpretation of the multimedia content;

measuring attributes of each content entity; ~~and~~

assigning the measured attributes to each corresponding content entity in the directed acyclic graphs to ~~rank~~ order the content entities of the multimedia content; and

comparing the ordered content entities in a plurality of the directed acyclic graphs to determine similar interpretations of the multimedia content.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include intensity attributes.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include direction attributes.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include spatial attributes and the order is spatial.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include temporal attributes and the order is temporal.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes are arranged in an increasing rank order.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes are arranged in an decreasing rank order.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

traversing the multimedia content according to the directed ~~acylic~~ acyclic graph and the measured attributes assigned to the content entities.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

summarizing the multimedia content according to the directed ~~acylic~~ acyclic graph and the measured attributes assigned to the content entities.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the multimedia content is a three dimensional video sequence.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein nodes of the directed acyclic graphs represent the content entities and edges represent breaks in the segmentation, and the measured attributes are associated with the corresponding edges.

12. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein at least one secondary content entity is associated with a particular content entity, and wherein the secondary content entity is selected during the traversing.

13. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein a summary of the multimedia is a selected permutation of the content entities according to the associated ranks.